

Theme 3: "Moral and Spiritual Decay"

1. What is the role and place of the church in Arusha in responding to the crisis of Moral and Spiritual Decay?

The participants highlighted that the church plays a vital role in addressing the crisis of moral and spiritual decay in Arusha. The first and most important responsibility of the church is to foster **love and unity** among its members and leaders. The participants noted that when church leaders love one another and cooperate, they can achieve great things, including addressing the moral decline in society. Unity in the church creates strength and purpose, allowing the church to be a powerful force in moral and spiritual restoration.

The church should also focus on **promoting joint efforts in spreading the gospel**. When church leaders collaborate, they can amplify their message, reaching various regions and communities, even to the farthest parts of the country. This unity of purpose, resources, and ideas will enable the church to be more effective in addressing the spiritual needs of the people.

Finally, the church must take a proactive role in **condemning and confronting immoral behaviours** such as drug abuse, alcoholism, and sexual immorality. By joining forces with the government and using its influence in the community, the church can become a powerful voice against social vices and help restore moral values in society.

Summary: The church's role in addressing moral and spiritual decay is to promote love and unity among leaders, work together to spread the gospel, and confront immoral behaviours in collaboration with the government and community.

2. What are three practical steps that the church in Tanzania can take to respond to Moral and Spiritual Decay?

The participants identified three key steps for the church in Tanzania to take in response to moral and spiritual decay:

- 1. Foster Unity and Cooperation Among Church Leaders:** The church must focus on promoting love and cooperation among its leaders. When church leaders work together, they can pool their resources, both financial and intellectual, to tackle the pressing issues of moral decay. Unity among leaders is essential for building a strong and capable church.
- 2. Create Joint Evangelistic Programs:** The church should implement joint evangelistic efforts that involve all denominations and regions. By creating programs that target different communities, the church can address both spiritual and moral issues, ensuring that the message of moral integrity reaches every corner of society. These joint efforts can help restore faith and moral values across the country.
- 3. Collaborate with the Government to Address Immoral Behaviours:** The church should collaborate with the government to tackle issues such as drug abuse, alcoholism, and sexual immorality. Through this partnership, the church can support government efforts in addressing these vices and work together to instill moral values in the community.

Summary: The church in Tanzania can address moral decay by promoting unity among leaders, creating joint evangelistic programs, and collaborating with the government to confront immoral behaviours.



3. What are three practical steps that your church community can take to respond to the crisis of Moral and Spiritual Decay?

At the local church level, the participants suggested the following steps to respond to the crisis of moral and spiritual decay:

1. **Teach and Guide Both Spiritually and Materially:** The church should not only focus on spiritual matters but also address the physical and material needs of its members. This includes offering practical support, such as medical assistance and food aid, especially to those who are vulnerable or struggling. By doing so, the church fulfils its responsibility to care for the whole person—spiritually, physically, and emotionally.
2. **Mentor and Support Vulnerable Groups:** The church has a responsibility to help vulnerable groups within its congregation, such as the poor, the elderly, and those who lack the means to support themselves. Church leaders should be aware of the specific needs of their members and provide assistance, whether through financial aid or connecting them with resources that can help improve their lives.
3. **Condemn and Educate Against Immorality:** The church community must take a strong stance against immoral behaviours by educating and guiding members on the consequences of such actions. This includes consistent preaching, teaching, and mentoring that emphasises the importance of living a moral and righteous life. The church should also work with community leaders and institutions to spread this message and provide resources for those struggling with issues like addiction or immorality.

Summary: Local church communities should teach and support their members both spiritually and materially, mentor vulnerable groups, and actively condemn immoral behaviours through education and guidance.

Overall Summary:

The church has a central role in addressing moral and spiritual decay by promoting love and unity among leaders, creating joint evangelistic efforts, and collaborating with the government to address immoral behaviours. At both the national and local levels, the church should provide practical support to vulnerable groups and actively condemn and educate against immoral behaviours. By taking these steps, the church can help restore moral values and spiritual integrity in society.

